

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO ALL EAST ASIAN AND PACIFIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS

AMCONSUL NAHA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

INFO CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

COGARD

GOV GUAM

TREASURY

XMT AMEMBASSY SUVA

AMEMBASSY RANGOON

UNCLAS STATE 013103

CINCPAC FOR POLAD (FOR PARTICIPANTS OF COM CONFERENCE

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: PFOR, XC, US

SUBJECT: JANUARY 19 EA PRESS SUMMARY

1. CHINA

LATEST GALLUP POLL SHOWS ABOUT TWO-THIRDS AMERICANS
CONVINCED WORLD POWER OF PRC, SOVIET WILL INCREASE;
BUT FEWER THAN HALF THINK US POWER WILL GROW. SIXTY-
FIVE PCT OF THOSE QUESTIONED EXPECTED CHINESE POWER
TO INCREASE, 63 PCT SAID SAME OF SOVIET POWER (NYT JAN 18).

APPEARING ON CBS-TV'S "FACE THE NATION" JAN 17, JULIE
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NIXON EISENHOWER SAID MAO TSE-TUNG EAGER FOR HER FATHER
REVISIT PEKING; REPORTED CHAIRMAN SAYING, "WHEN HE
(NIXON) COMES TO CHINA, I WILL BE WAITING FOR HIM."
BOTH JULIE/DAVID SAID THEY FEEL THEIR WELCOME TO PRC

WAS NO WARMER THAN THAT GIVEN OTHER RECENT FOREIGN VISITORS, BUT WAS MOST CORDIAL. JULIE INTERPRETED THIS AS MEANING CHINESE "TRYING TO SAY THAT A CONTINUING DIALOGUE WITH THE US WAS VERY NECESSARY"; SHE ALSO SAW THIS CORDIALITY AS APPRECIATION BY THEIR HOSTS OF NIXON'S EFFORTS IMPROVE SINO-US RELATIONS (UPI NYDN, CHITRIB). JULIE ADDED THAT NIXON WOULD LIKE DO ALL HE CAN IN FUTURE TO PROMOTE PEACE IN PACIFIC (NYDN).

NCNA SAYS IN COMMENTARY ON RECENT SOVIET-JAPANESE PEACE TREATY THAT SOVIET SEEKS "UNDERMINE THE US INFLUENCE IN ASIA AND IS CONTENDING WITH THE US FOR WORLD HEGEMONY POLITICALLY" (WP JAN 18).

NYT'S WREN IN MOSCOW (JAN 17) REPORTS SOVIET SATURDAY UNLEASHED ITS HARSHTEST ATTACK ON PRC IN RECENT MONTHS, PRAVDA COMMENTARY PREDICTING CHINESE PEOPLE WILL EVENTUALLY OVERTHROW MAO REGIME. WREN REPORTS THAT, DESPITE TOUGH LANGUAGE, LENGTHY COMMENTARY ATTRACTED DIPLOMATIC CIRCLES' ATTENTION MUCH LESS FOR CONTENT THAN ITS TIMING. SAYS MOST NOTABLY, SOVIET BLAST CONFIRMED BELIEF AMONG DIPLOMATS IN MOSCOW THAT RECENT CHINESE RELEASE OF SOVIET HELICOPTER CREW DID NOT SIGNAL PROSPECT OF WARMER SINO-SOVIET RELATIONS; PRAVDA ARTICLE ALSO FOLLOWS CONCLUSION MOURNING PERIOD FOR CHOU EN-LAI, INDICATING SOVIET SAW NO ADVANTAGE RESTRAINING ITS VERBAL CAMPAIGN IN HOPES MORE MODERATE LEADERS MIGHT EMERGE IN PEKING TO SEEK RECONCILIATION WITH MOSCOW (EXCERPTED IN SUN JAN 17).

JOC (CHARLOTTE) DISPATCH SAYS WHILE NC TEXTILE EXECUTIVES GENERALLY PLEASED WITH OUTLOOK FOR THEIR INDUSTRY, THEY ARE BOTHERED BY WHAT WOULD APPEAR GENERAL INCREASE IN LEVEL TEXTILE IMPORTS, PARTICULARLY FROM PRC -- WHICH, WHILE ONLY TINY PART TOTAL AMOUNT TEXTIL IMPORTS, HAVE SURGED IN RECENT MONTHS. IN OCT ALONE, 25 MILLION EQUIVALENT YARDS IMPORTED FROM PRC, ALMOST DOUBLE TOTAL UNCLASSIFIED

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AMOUNT IMPORTED DURING ENTIRE FOURTH QUARTER 1974. NC TEXTILE LEADERS HAVE EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT IF PEKING GRANTED MFN TRADING STATUS, IMPORT VOLUME COULD POSE THREAT TO DOMESTIC INDUSTRY.

NCNA REPORTS SOME 12,000 CHINESE ORKERS, PEASANTS, SOLDIERS, PARTY CADRES RECENTLY SWAM ACROSS YUNGCHIANG RIVER IN NANNING, WHERE MAO ONCE SWAM IN WINTER. SAYS RED FLAGS FLUTTERED ALONG RIVERSIDE ON DAY OF SWIM, AND PEOPLE FLOCKED TO YUNGCHIANG BRIDGE CARRYING PORTRAITS OF CHAIRMAN AND PLACARDS INSCRIBED WITH WORDS: "PROMOTE PHYSICAL CULTURE AND SPORT, BUILD UP PEOPLE'S HEALTH" (WSTAR JAN 18).

MORE THAN 1,300 PEOPLE, MOST NY CHINATOWN RESIDENTS,
FILLED SEATS, AISLES OF GRAND STREET AUDITORIUM
S'NDAY IN MEMORIAL TRIBUTE TO CHOU. EULOGIST WAS
DR CHENNING YANG, NOBEL PRIZE-WINNING PHYSCIST AT STATE
U OF NY, WHO ATTRIBUTED LARGE TURNOUT TO NEW SPIRIT OF
UNCLASSIFIED

SINO-US UNDERSTANDING SINCE 1971. OTHER SPEAKERS INCLUDED:
PAUL LIN, DIRECTOR ASIAN STUDEIS, MCGILL U;
SHIRLEY GRAHAM DUBOIS; AND WM HINTON, OF US-CHINA
PEOPLE'S FRIENDSHIP ASSN (BLAU, NYT).

ROC BASEBALL TEAM WILL VISIT PHILA IN MAY AT INVITATION
OF TEXTILE; LA SALLE ALSO REPORTED INTERESTED IN
PLAYING CHINESE, AND OTHER GAMES ALSO BEING SOUGHT
FOR THEM (UPI, PHINQ).

2. INDOCHINA

MCGOVERN SPENDS 1 DAY AT SAIGON, CONFERS WITH NGUYEN
THI BINH (NYT 1/17).

SEN SAYS VIETS ASSURED HIM WILL MAKE EVERY EFFORT SECURE
ALL INFO ON MIAS; WILL ALLOW AMCITS STRANDED SAIGON
LEAVE SOON; WILL RETURN REMAINS 2 MARINES KILLED IN FINAL
PHASE WAR, SOON AS IDENTIFICATION COMPLETE. ADDS
NVN, SVN LEADERS WANT FORGET PAST, ESTABLISH
UNCLASSIFIED

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NORMAL RELS WITH US (WSTAR 1/18; AP, SUN 1/18). MCGOVERN
GIVEN NO OFFICIAL MESSAGE FOR PRES, BUT ASKED ASSURE
CONGRESS, ADMIN, AMERICAN PEOPLE HANOI WILLING BE FRIENDS.
ADDS SAIGON FLOURISHING, MUCH GAYER, HAPPIER CITY
THAN HE SAW ON PRIOR VISITS, WITH NO MIL VEHICLES PRESENCE
OBVIOUS (AP, SUN 1/18). SEN STATES IMPRESSED BY
EFFECTIVE WAY VN USING FOREIGN AID, ABSENCE RANCOR TOWARD
US (WP).

SVN PRESS FIRST TARGET OF RECENTLY REVIVED CAMPAIGN
AGAINST 'DECADENT AND REACTIONARY' CULTURE. CAMPAIGN
EARLIER DIRECTED AT UNIVERSITIES; NOW SEEMS INTENDED
FOR PRESS, PUOLISHING, ENTERTAINMENT INDUSTRY (AFP,
NYT 1/18).

CSM'S SOUTHERLAND (WP 1/18) AT VIENTIANE DESCRIBES
GOVT CAMPAIGN AGAINST 'DECADENT IMPERIALIST CULTURE,'
NOTES LESS THAN THOROUGH SO FAR. OBSERVES FRENCH
PRESENCE EXPECTED BE REDUCED DRASTICALLY; RUSSIANS
BECOMING MORE CONSPICUOUS; VIET COMMUNIST MAINTAIN LOW
PROFILE IN CAPITAL; CHICOMS NOT MUCH IN EVIDENCE -- BUT
INFLUENCE CANNOT BE DISCOUNTED, SINCE APPEAR HAVE

EXCELLENT CONTACTS WITH STILL-IMPORTANT CHINESE COMMUNITY,
CONTROL ROAD NETWORK IN NORTH.

WP'S WHITE (1/17) REPORTS ON PUBLISHER'S PARTY FOR
WESTMORELAND WHOSE BOOK, 'A SOLDIER REPORTS,' ARGUES
CASE FOR MIL'S ROLE IN VN WAR. NOTES EVENT ATTENDED
BY HABIB, HARRIMAN, CIA'S COLBY, GEN TAYLOR, OTHERS

INVOLVED IN VN IN 60S, EARLY 70S. POINTS OUT BOOK
CLAIMS MIL COULD HAVE WON WAR BUT FOR MEDDLING OF
CIVILIAN POLICY-MAKERS.

IN REVIEW OF YEAR'S MOVIES, ARNOLD (WP 1/18) CONSIDERS
'HEARTS AND MINDS' ONE OF 4 MOST EXCEPTIONAL. CALLS
IT ARTFULLY RECORDED, ORGANIZED ACTUALITY. REFERS TO
IT AS "DOCUMENTARY POLEMIC" THAT IMPLIES WAR HAS LEFT
PERMANENT PSYCHOLOGICAL, POLITICAL SCARS.

3. INDONESIA
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WP'S SAAR AT JAKARTA (1/18) DESCRIBES COORUPTION THAT SWELL
WITH OIL, MINERALS BOOM. WONDERS WHEN WILL LEAD
TO SERIOUS INTERNAL DISTURBANCE. SAYS ELABORATE KICKBACK/
BRIBERY APPARATUS PLUNDERS INTL AID FUNDS, STATE
ALLOCATIONS. SEES SUHARTO APPARENTLY UNABLE DEAL
EFFECTIVELY WITH COBRUPTION ISSUE, POSSIBLY DUE INVOLVE-
MENT WIFE, FAMILY. NOTES CONTRAST NEW-RICH WITH HOPELESS
DESTITUTION MILLIONS. STATES ALARM OVER CORRUPTION
COUPLED BY MANY WITH GLOOM OVER REGIME'S ABILITY DEAL
WITH PROBLEMS NATL SURVIVAL WHILE STILL TIME; INTL
ECONOMISTS IN PAST HOPED EXPLOITATION OIL, MINERAL
WEALTH WOULD YIELD TELLING RESULTS, BUT NOW PESSIMISTIC
DUE POPULATION INCREASE, HIGH IMPORT COSTS, WEALTH
IN FEW HANDS. TELLS OF POOR ACCOUNTING, INADEQUATE
PLANNING, CORRUPTION PERTAMINA.

SAAR STATES SUHARTO RESPECTED FOR POL SHREWDNESS,
CAREFUL FOREIGN POLICY, RECOVERY FROM SUKARNO'S
ECON RUINS. SAYS ANALYSTS APPLAUD 2ND 5-YR PLAN THAT
WILL INCREASE IRRIGATION, HEALTH, EDUCATION EXPENDITURES;
BUT WONDER IF GOVT HAS WILL DEAL WITH BASIC PROBLEMS
OF LANDLESSNESS, UNEMPLOYMENT, MALNUTRITION, SOARING
POPULATION. POINTS OUT SUHARTO EFFECTIVELY SUPPRESSES
POL OPPOSITION, BUT TENSIONS SEETH UNDER SURFACE.

4. KOREA

NYT SPECIAL (SEOUL) REPORTS "SPASM OF EXCITEMENT"
SWEEPING SK SINCE PRES PARK ANNOUNCEMENT LAST
WEEK OF OIL DISCOVERY, AND VOLUME OF TRADING DOUBLED
ON SEOUL STOCK EXCHANGE. OFFICIALS REMAIN SILENT

ON DETAILS, BUT FORMER PRES OF TRADING FIRM LONG INVOLVED IN EXPLORATION TOLD PRESS HIS ESTIMATE THAT POHANG DEPOSIT CONTAINS 6.3 BILLION BBL OF LOW SULFUR OIL, "ENOUGH TO SATISFY US FOR THE NEXT FIFTY YEARS."

OPPOSITION NDP LEADER KIM YOUNG-SAM TOLD PRESS SUNDAY PARK SHOULD MAKE /MAJOR EFFORTS/ IN 1976 TO PROMOTE INTL CONFERENCE ON PEACE, SECURITY IN KOREA, ATTENDED BY US, PRC AND TWO KOREAS. REMARKS WIDELY REPORTED UNCLASSIFIED

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IN KOREAN PRESS (NYT, SEOUL).

5. JAPAN

EAST, WEST COLLEGE ALL-STARS PLAYED FIRST JAPAN BOWL BEFORE 68,000 FANS IN TOKYO SUNDAY, AS PART OF BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION. CHUCK MUNCIE LED WEST TO 27-18 VICTORY (CHITRIB; AP, NYDN). WP'S BERGER SAID "BEST PLAY" CAME AFTER GAME, WHEN PLAYERS, COACHES MARCHED AROUND OLYMPIC STADIUM, THROWING CHIN STRAPS, ELBOW PADS TO FANS, IN GOOD-WILL GESTURE RECIPROCATING ENTHUSIASTIC WELCOME. NYT'S HALLORAN REPORTED GAME, US-STYLE HALF-TIME COLOR. NOTED 3 JAPANESE COLLEGE STARS JOINED EACH TEAM, AND KAZUO YOSHIDA (NIHON U) RETURNED KICKOFF, AFTER WEST'S FINAL TOUCHDOWN, FOR SIX YARDS.

USDA'S RICHARD BELL, ON RETURN WASHINGTON FROM JAPAN CONSULTATIONS WITH GOJ OFFICIALS LAST WEEK, SAID FRIDAY THAT JAPANESE LIVESTOCK INDUSTRY RECOVERY EXPECTED THIS YEAR; SHOULD ASSURE US FARMERS WILL SELL JAPAN 14 MILLION TONS GRAIN, SOYBEANS IN 1975-76, AS CALLED FOR UNDER THREE-YEAR STABLE SUPPLY AGREEMENT REACHED PAST SUMMER (CNS, JOC).

JAPAN MARITIME SAFETY AGENCY INFORMS LLOYDS THAT TWO SURVIVORS FROM BERGE ISTRA, WHICH VANISHED IN WPAC LAST MONTH, PICKED UP IN GOOD CONDITION BY JAPANESE FISHING BOAT. TWO CREWMEN SAID ORE CARRIER TORN APART BY THREE EXPLOSIONS (WP, LONDON). OWNERS SAID SHIP INSURED FOR 27 MILLION DOLS, MAKING THIS BIGGEST SHIPWRECK IN HISTORY (CSM, WSJ).

JOC'S CULLISON CITES TAKEO FUKUDA OPTIMISTIC PREDICTION, BEFORE YOMIURI INTL ECOM ECON SOCIETY FRIDAY, THAT JAPAN'S ECONOMY WILL PICK UP STEADILY IN NEAR FUTURE IN RESPONSE GRADUAL RALLY IN WORLD TRADE. ALSO SAID GOJ ANTI-RECESSION MEASURES WILL HELP BOOST DOMESTIC ECONOMY.

IN LENGTHY REVIEW OF TRADE 1976 PROSPECTS, GEORGE TELFER (JOC) ADVISES TRADERS, BUSINESSMEN FOCUS ON US, FRG, JAPAN, AND COUNTRIES EXPORTING OIL, MINERALS, OTHER

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NATURAL RESOURCES THAT WILL BE IN DEMAND AS TEMPO OF
WORLD TRADE PICKS UP. FORECASTS TOTAL US TRADE MIGHT
REACH 232 BILLION DOLS OF WORLD TOTAL 900 BILLION DOLS

HIS YEAR.

JOC (TOKYO) CITES SOURCES THAT SAID FRIDAY JAPANESE
OIL FIRMS PLAN BEGIN EXPLORING CONTINENTAL SHELF
OFF HOKKAIDO, IN JOINT VENTURES WITH US, UK, DUTCH
COMPANIES.

6. ASEAN

PHILS' MARCOS, INDO'S SUHARTO AGREE PROCEED WITH ASEAN
SUMMIT FEB 23, DESPITE DEATH MALAYSIA'S RAZAK (WP 1/18).

7. AUSTRALIA

NEW PM STARTS QUIETLY, DISCUSSES NEW TAX PROCEDURES TO
GIVE STATES MORE FINANCIAL AUTONOMY; DISBANDS SEVERAL
DEPTS SET UP BY PREVIOUS GOVTS, INDICATES WILLINGNESS
COOPERATE WITH US ON DEFENSE. FRASER ALSO MANAGES
IMPOSE DISCIPLINE ON CABINET, SO MAJOR ANNOUNCEMENTS COME
FROM HIS OFFICE (NYT SPECIAL 1/18).

8. PACIFIC ISLANDS

OCEAN ISLAND INHABITANTS CHARGE UK RESPONSIBLE UNPAID
ROYALTIES FOR PHOSPHATE; SUE BRITAIN IN HIGH COURT;
WANT ISLAND MADE HABITABLE AGAIN BY TREE PLANTING.
ALSO WANT SEPARATION FROM GILBERTS, INDEPENDENCE ON
SIMILAR GROUNDS (REUTER, CSM).

9. GENERAL

IATA SAYS MAY PERMIT ASIAN AIRLINES CUT FARES TO MEET
COMPETITION FROM NON-IATA LINES (AP, SUN 1/18). WH
OFFICE TELECOMMUNICATIONS POLICY ANNOUNCES PLANS FOR
PAC BASIN NATIONS CONFER ON BEST USE RAPIDLY IMPROVING
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COMMUNICATIONS TECHNIQUES. WANTS FIRST MEETING HELD EARLY
THIS YR TO INCLUDE US, AUSTRALIA, JAPAN, INDONESIA,
CANADA, WITH OTHERS TO JOIN IN LATER MEETINGS (AP, WSTAR
1/16).

COMMENT AND ANALYSIS

10. CHINA

SUN (JAN 18) SAYS MOST US OFFICIALS BELIEVE TENG HSIAO-PING WILL CONSOLIDATE POWER, PURSUE CHOU EN-LAI POLICIES. BUT CONTENTS MOST IMPORTANT FACTS IN ANALYZING CHINESE POLITICS ARE GREAT GAPS IN HARD INFO AVAILABLE, EVEN

WITH USLO IN PEKING AND THOUSANDS OF AMCITS TRAVELING PEKING EVERY YEAR. SAYS DESPITE HIS OBVIOUS STRENGTHS, TENG'S POSITION DIFFERENT WITHOUT CHOU'S ENORMOUS PRESENCE. NOTES RUMBLES OF DISSENT BY DOCTRINAIRE MAOISTS REGULARLY BEING HEARD; AND TENG'S ASCENDANCY OFFERS ROOM FOR OPTIMISM -- BUT NOT COMPLACENCY -- ABOUT SINO-US RELATIONS. TENG'S RECENT RELEASE SOVIET CHOPPER CREW COULD HAVE BEEN SIGNAL HIS REGIME MIGHT MODULATE DISPUTE WITH MOSCOW IF POST-BREZHNEV LEADERSHIP WILL RECIPROCATE. TENG CAN HARDLY BE UNAWARE HE HAS "SOVIET OPTION" RESEMBLING "US OPTION" CHOU EXERCISED BY ENTERTAINING NIXON.

NYT'S SULZBERGER, IN PARIS, NOTES NEW DIPLO SITUATION EXISTS: MOSCOW NOT SCARED OF PRC NOW, BUT PEKING REMAINS TERRIFIED OF SOVIET AND CONTINUALLY URGES WEST STAY STRONG. YET, SOVIET DOES ADMIT IT IS DEEPLY WORRIED ABOUT PRC 29 YEARS HENCE, AND SUGGESTS US CONCLUDE ARMS ACCORD NOW TO HEAD OFF ULTIMATE PRC THREAT. SEES AS PARAMOUNT IN TODAY'S DIPLOMATIC POKER GAME QUESTION WHETHER WEST WOULD BE MORE WEAKENED BY YIELDING TO BREZHNEV'S DEMANDS ON RESTRICTED "CRUISE" MISSILES IN US STRATEGIC STOCKPILE OR BY GAMBLING THAT SOVIET CANNOT GET DEAL WITH PEKING, EVEN IF SEEKS ONE (JAN 17).

11. JAPAN

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NYT PERCEIVES TOKYO'S REJECTION OF "HEAVY-HANDED" SOV EFFORT TO IMPEDE JAPAN-PRC PEACE TREATY AS SIGN OF SHIFT IN ASIAN BALANCE POWER THAT MOSCOW SEEMED SLOW TO RECOGNIZE, BUT CAN NO LONGER IGNORE. BELIEVES GROMYKO VISIT SHOWS JAPAN HAS BECOME MAJOR POLITICAL, ECON FACTOR IN ASIA, AND--DESPITE LACK SIGNIFICANT MILITARY FORCE, BUT PROTECTED BY US NUCLEAR UMBRELLA-- IS NOW ABLE PURSUE OWN POLICIES, REGARDLESS OF WISHES OF POWERFUL SOV NEIGHBOR. DEVELOPMENTS DISCLOSE JAPAN CLEARLY EDGING TOWARD CHINESE SIDE; BUT MORE SIGNIFICANT IS WHAT THEY SAY ABOUT JAPAN'S EMERGENCE, AGAIN, AS IMPORTANT POWER IN ASIA.

WSTAR (1/18) FINDS DECISION TO CONCLUDE PEACE TREATY WITH PRC "SOON AS POSSIBLE" MARKS ABRUPT SHIFT FROM JAPANESE POLICY OF PAST DECADE, AND SIGNALS BREAK IN LONG-

STANDING DIPLOMATIC LOG-JAM THAT CHARACTERIZED JAPAN'S RELATIONS WITH TWO COMMUNIST GIANTS SINCE EARLY 1950S. THAT POLICY OF PURSUING "EQUIDISTANT" COURSE BETWEEN BOTH PREVENTED ANY REAL IMPROVEMENT WITH EITHER. MAY ALSO SIGNAL SIGNIFICANT CHANGE IN SHIFTING PATTERN OF

GREAT POWER RELATIONS IN FE, AND CERTAINLY MARKS NEW BOLDNESS, ASSERTIVENESS IN JAPANESE DIPLOMACY WHICH HAS IMPORTANT IMPLICATIONS FOR MANY NATIONS, INCLUDING US.

HALLORAN (NYT 1/18) IN TOKYO REVIEWS GROMYKO VISIT IN CONTEXT OF MANY NATIONS COURTING JAPAN, DESPITE ITS LACK TRADITIONAL POWER, AND NEAR-TOTAL DEPENDENCE ON OTHERS FOR IMPORTS OF FOOD, FUEL, RAW MATERIALS--TO KEEP JAPAN ON THEIR SIDE, OR, IF NOT POSSIBLE, DENY THEIR ADVERSARIES BENEFITS OF JAPAN'S ECONOMIC POWER. THUS SEES GROMYKO'S INABILITY DISSUADE JAPAN FROM IMPROVING RELATIONS WITH PRC LEADING TO IMPROVED RELATIONS THAT WILL STRENGTHEN PRC. SUGGESTS "THICKENING OF TIES" BETWEEN JAPAN, PRC MAY IMPROVE EFFECTIVENESS OF SECSTATE'S POLICY OF PLAYING-OFF CHINESE AND RUSSIANS AGAINST EACH OTHER. NOTES JAPANESE INCREASINGLY AWARE OF THEIR RELIANCE ON US NUCLEAR UMBRELLA SINCE VN FALL -- MAY NOT RELY ON CURRENT STRATEGY FOREVER, BUT FOR MOMENT ARE UNCLASSIFIED

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CONTENT WITH IT, AND HAVE JUST SHRUGGED OFF GROMYKO'S THREAT THAT SOV WOULD "RECONSIDER" RELATIONS IF JAPAN ADOPTED PRO-CHINESE POSITION.

12. KOREA

BRADEN (WP 1/17) RECALLS HALF-FORGOTTEN DUE BILLS LEFT OVER FROM NIXON PRESIDENCY, SUCH AS REACTORS PROMISED SADAT. NOTES AGREEMENT INITIALED BY FORD, SADAT IN 1975 ABOUT TO BE SCRUTINIZED NEXT WEEK BY SEN GLENN (O) IN MOST FAR-REACHING HEARINGS TO DATE ON PERILS OF NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION. FORESEES GLENN HEARINGS CALLING ATTENTION TO GRAVE DANGERS OF POTENTIAL FOR WEAPONS PRODUCTION FROM SUCH DEVELOPMENTS AS RECENT SHIPMENTS REACTOR FUEL TO ROK, INDIA.

13. THAILAND

SUN (1/17) SEES KUKRIT'S ABILITY GOVERN 10 MOS WITH UNWIELDY COALITION TESTIMONY TO HIS MODERATING INFLUENCE, THAI EARNESTNESS TOWARD DEMOCRACY, MIL'S RELUCTANCE CHALLENGE BOTH KING, PARLIAMENT SIMULTANEOUSLY. NOTES PRESSURE FROM LEFT, RIGHT CAUSED PM CALL NEW ELECTIONS. SAYS THAILAND STANDS OUT FOR OVERTHROWING DICTATORSHIP, EXPERIMENTING WITH FREE EXPRESSION, FREE

ELECTIONS. BELIEVES APR ELECTION MAY HINGE ON LOCAL
ISSUES, PERSONAL LOYALTIES, CAMPAIGN WAR CHESTS EVEN
THOUGH COULD DETERMINE RTG RESPONSE COMMUNIST NEIGHBORS.
SAYS FUTURE COULD HOLD ANYTHING FROM REAL REFORM TO MIL

COUP. CALLS KUKRIT'S NEW ELECTIONS GAMBLE THAT WILL BE
ABLE FORM WORKABLE COALITION, WITH ODDS LESS THAN
PROMISING. BUT EMPHASIZES THAT POL CRISIS BETTER
REFERRED TO PEOPLE THAN TO ARMY.

14. MARIANAS

CSM NOTES 2 SENATE CMTEs WILL VOTE ON GRANT COMMONWEALTH
STATUS THIS WK, BELIEVES CASE FOR EXTENDING US
SOVEREIGNTY TO ISLANDS STRONG. POINTS OUT PEOPLE OF
MARIANAS WANT COMMONWEALTH ARRANGEMENT, IN US INTERESTS
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THAT STRATEGICALLY IMPORTANT ISLANDS NOT FALL INTO HANDS
ANOTHER POWER. KISSINGER

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